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January 13, 2002

Attorney General John Ashcroft
US Department of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20530

Dear Mr. Ashcroft:

After three long years of litigation, I am pleased to be notified that a settlement was finally reached in the Microsoft Antitrust case. Microsoft did not go unpunished as many people may think. The details of this settlement were finalized after three years of scrutiny and dispute and thus, have been considered for an extended amount of time. In the best interest of both the government and Microsoft, this settlement should be the end of the antitrust case, as further litigation won't benefit anyone except for the lawyers.

Microsoft's antitrust settlement requires that computer makers will now be free to remove certain Windows features and replace them with the competitor's software programs. Additionally, Microsoft will provide competitors with necessary interfaces that are internal to Windows' operating system products. This part of the agreement has already been implemented in the release of Windows XP. Included within the software is a mechanism that enables the consumer, the software makers and computer makers to change the configuration at any time they wish to do so. To ensure that Microsoft complies with the terms of this settlement, a three-person Technical committee will be expected to monitor Microsoft's business practices. In addition to that, Microsoft also had to agree not to retaliate against its competitors.

Clearly this settlement covers many concerns of the government, the industry as well as the public. To my best knowledge, I feel that this settlement offers reasonable solutions to all of the parties involved.

Sincerely,



John Corcoran